

Passed December 23.
Preamble.

An ACT for the relief of certain purchasers of confiscated property.

WHEREAS sundry inhabitants of Cæcil county have, by their humble petition, set forth, that they were possessed of certain lands lying within Cæcil county, and known by the name of the Nottingham Lot Lands and the Welch Tract, by virtue of equitable titles acquired under the proprietors of Pennsylvania at a time when the boundaries between the provinces were in controversy and unsettled, which titles were secured to them by an agreement made in the year one thousand seven hundred and thirty-two, between the said proprietors; and not being able since to acquire legal titles, their lands have been sold by the intendant of the revenue as confiscated property, which sales they are desirous to be relieved from: And whereas the legislature are of opinion, that the said petitioners, and all others similarly circumstanced, are entitled to the aid and assistance of the legislature: Therefore,

Persons claiming entitled to a patent, &c.

II. Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That all persons claiming the said lands in Cæcil county, known by the name of the Nottingham Lands, or the Welch Tract, by virtue of any grant, warrant, lease, patent, licence or agreement, from the proprietors of Pennsylvania, or their agents, at any time prior to the fifteenth day of May, seventeen hundred and twenty-four, and all persons claiming by, from or under, such settlers, or any of them, shall be entitled to a patent from the state of Maryland for such part of the said land as they now hold, or may be entitled to, by virtue of any such grant, patent, lease, warrant, licence or agreement, with the proprietor or proprietors of Pennsylvania, or their agents, upon making such title appear to the satisfaction of the chancellor, and upon paying for their lands at the rate of fifteen pounds per hundred acres in depreciation and other liquidated state certificates, and the fees of office, and all the fees chargeable to this state in making and returning surveys of the said lands, and all legal costs of suit incurred on their bonds, which have not been remitted by former resolves or acts of assembly,

Chancellor to direct the treasurer, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That the chancellor is hereby authorized to direct the treasurer of the western shore to deliver up such persons bonds as are now in the treasury, upon proving titles and making such payments as are above described, provided that such proof and payment be made within one year from the end of this present session of assembly.

Settlers having paid, entitled to a certificate, &c.

IV. And be it enacted, That if any of the said settlers have paid all or any part of their bonds, that upon proving title as aforesaid, and paying fees of office, and all fees attending the surveys as aforesaid, and all legal costs of suit which have accrued on their said bonds, and which have not been remitted by former resolves or acts of assembly, such settlers shall be entitled to receive a certificate from the treasurer of the western shore, for the surplus of their said bond, after deducting fifteen pounds per hundred for every hundred acres of land such settlers shall be entitled to; and that such certificate shall be receivable by this state, in the same payments as depreciation or other liquidated state certificates are.

No process shall issue, &c.

V. And be it enacted, That no further or other process shall hereafter issue on any such bonds, at any time within one year from the end of this present session of assembly.

Not necessary to make proof, &c.

VI. And be it enacted, That it shall not be necessary for any person or persons, claiming any part or parcel of the aforesaid lands, to make proof before the chancellor of any intermediate title derived from any other person or persons originally claiming under the said proprietor or proprietors of Pennsylvania, or their agents as aforesaid, except a possession of such part or parcel of the said lands acquired immediately by descent or purchase, but proof of the original grant, patent, lease, warrant, licence or agreement, from the said proprietors, or their agents, together with the possession derived as aforesaid, shall be deemed sufficient evidence of title.

VII. Provided